

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for indicating the status of a battery in a portable computing device, the method comprising:
  - retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device, the battery status data reflective of a characteristic of the battery;
  - comparing the retrieved battery status data to a predefined battery status threshold stored on the computing device; and
- 10 based on the comparison of the battery status data to the predefined battery status threshold, providing a battery status indicator to an applications program on the computing device.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device comprises retrieving battery status data relating to the voltage of the battery from the BIOS on the computing device.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the battery status data comprises the applications program initiating a BIOS interrogating routine to retrieve battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device.
- 20 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - providing a user perceptible battery status indicator via the applications program on the computing device.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein providing the user perceptible battery status indicator comprises displaying a low battery alert when the comparison indicates that the battery status data is less than the predefined status threshold.

5

6. The method of claim 1, wherein displaying the battery status indicator comprises displaying a gauge representative of a current battery status.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the predefined battery status threshold is 10 user-definable.

8. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method for indicating the status of a battery in a portable computing device, the method comprising:

15 retrieving battery status data from a basic input-output system (BIOS) on the computing device, the battery status data reflective of a characteristic of the battery;

comparing the retrieved battery status data to a predefined battery status threshold stored on the computing device; and

20 based on the comparison of the battery status data to the predefined battery status threshold, providing a battery status indicator to an applications program on the computing device.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for retrieving battery status data relating to the voltage of the battery from the BIOS on the computing device.